REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted as part of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), as submitted herewith. Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are now pending in the present application, with claims 1-5 amended, claim 6 cancelled, and claims 7-11 added. No new matter is introduced (see, e.g., Applicants' Specification, as published, No. 20020024613, e.g., FIGs. 1-2, and paragraphs [0003], [0007], [0008], [0016], [0017], [0018], [0020] and [0021]).

First, Applicants wish to thank Primary Examiner Kostak for conducting a personal interview with Applicants' representative on May 6, 2005. Although no agreement was reached, Applicants' representative presented the amended and added claims, as submitted herewith, and which patentably distinguish over U.S. Patent No. 5,638,485 to *Kobayashi et al.*

With respect to the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejections, the present claims are in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, as being clearly supported by Applicants' Specification, as published, No. 20020024613, e.g., FIGs. 1-2, and paragraphs [0003], [0007], [0008], [0016], [0017], [0018], [0020] and [0021]. Accordingly, no further rejection on a 35 U.S.C. § 112 basis is anticipated. If, however, the Examiner should disagree, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to engage in a joint effort of deriving a mutually satisfactory solution.

The present independent claims and claims dependent therefrom are allowable over *Kobayashi et al.*, because *Kobayashi et al.* fails to disclose, teach or suggest all of the features recited in the pending claims, as amended. For example, independent claim 1, as amended, recites:

> A video switcher, comprising:
> a plurality of inputs for receiving a respective plurality of input video signals of mixed aspect ratios;
> **a plurality of aspect ratio converters integrated within the video switcher and configured for generating respective aspect ratio converted background and preset signals based on the input video signals**; and
> means for providing both the aspect ratio converted background and preset signals and the input video signals as outputs.

By contrast, *Kobayashi et al.* is directed to a video signal processing apparatus, including an input unit for inputting a video signal, a detecting unit for detecting an aspect

ratio of the video signal inputted to the input unit, a holding unit for holding aspect information representing the aspect ratio detected by the detecting unit, an abnormal state detecting unit for detecting an abnormal state of the video signal inputted to the input unit, and an output unit for selectively outputting aspect information outputted from the aspect ratio detecting unit and the aspect information held by the holding unit, in accordance with an output of the abnormal state detecting unit, but otherwise fails disclose, teach or suggest, for example, "a plurality of aspect ratio converters integrated within the video switcher and configured for generating respective aspect ratio converted background and preset signals based on the input video signals," as recited in independent claim 1, as amended.

The invention recited in independent claim 1 and claims dependent therefrom provides the following advantages:

> [0018] By providing at least two ARCs after the crosspoint matrix on the input carrier 22, as many as eight input signals can be aspect ratio converted. In the prior art external method, aspect ratio conversion of eight input signals would take sixteen individual ARCs. The present invention greatly simplifies the aspect ratio conversion process and also significantly reduces the cost and complexity of the operation.
>
> [0021] By providing a pair of ARCs in an aspect ratio conversion mode 110 after the crosspoint matrix 106 and the deserializer module 107, each and every video input 102 can be aspect ratio converted using only two ARCs. This is due by routing any of the selected inputs to the vid 1 and vid 2 outputs of the key pre-processor. This greatly simplifies and reduces the cost of this procedure over known conversion systems. Further, in comparison with the first embodiment, by providing the aspect ratio conversion module after the deserializer 107 and key pre-processor 108, the aspect ratio converter module does not need to deserialize and re-serialize the output signals, respectively. The elimination of a redundant deserializer and re-serializer combination also reduces the expense and complexity of the system.

By contrast, *Kobayashi et al.* fails disclose, teach or suggest the noted features and the advantages thereof.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite the prosecution and engage in a joint effort to work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

Respectfully submitted,

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